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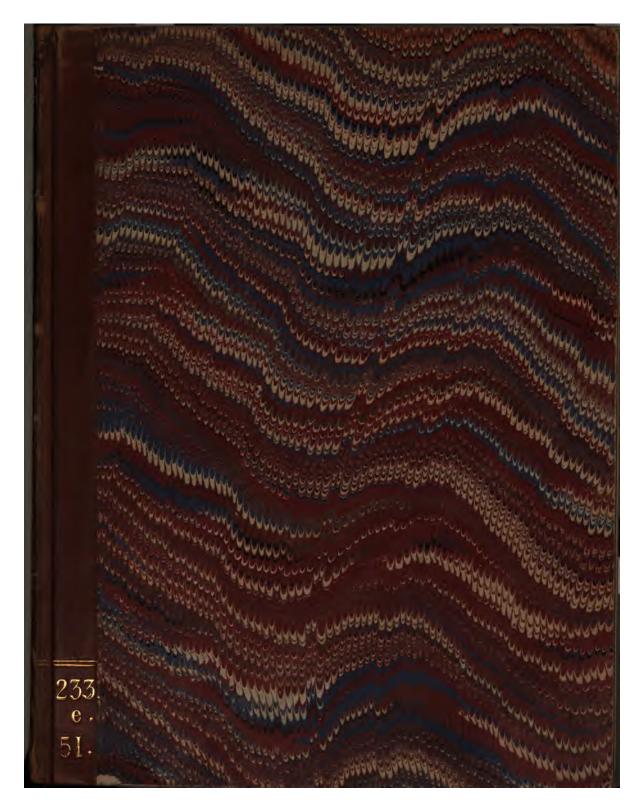
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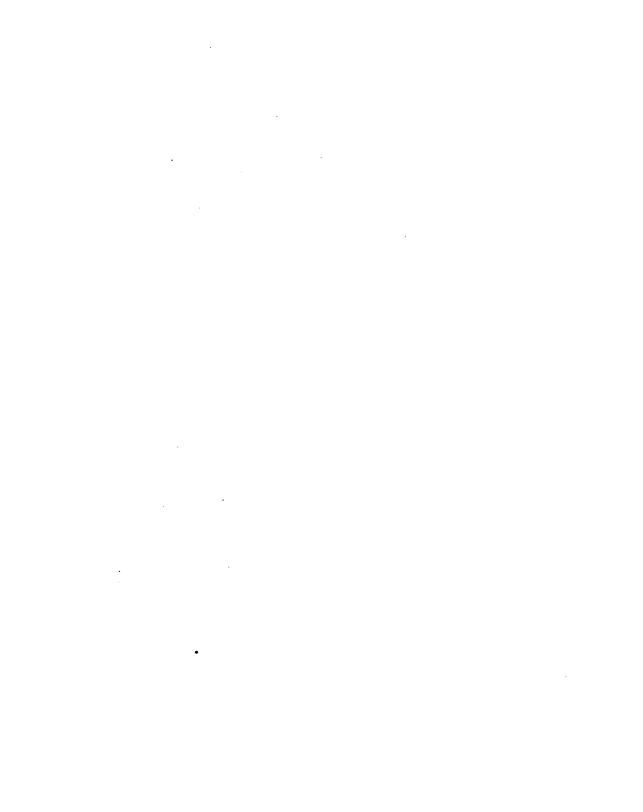
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A

NARRATIVE

OF

The Proceedings

OF

Sir Edmond Androsse and his Complices,

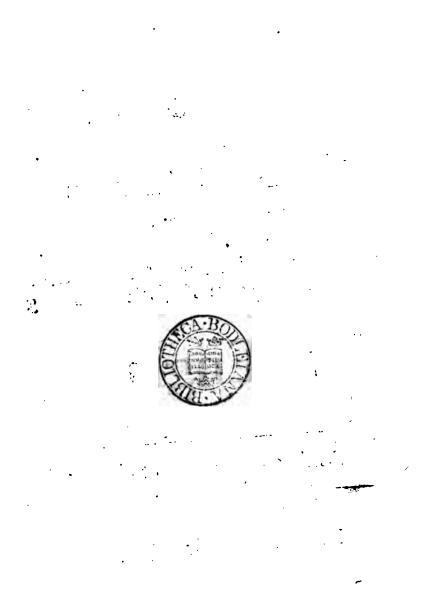
Who Acted by an Illegal and Arbitrary Commission from the Late K. FAMES, during his Government in

New England.

By feveral Gentlemen who were of his Council.

Printed in the Year 1691.

233 € 51.



READER

THE Particulars mentioned in the ensuing Na tive, are but a small part of the Grievances j complained of by the People in New England, du their three years Oppression under Sir E. A. For a more Account, the Reader is referred to the Justification of Revolution in New England, where every particular hibited against Sir Ed. and his Complices, by the Agents la fent to England, is by the Affidavits of honest menfirmed. It some men find themselves thereby exposed to just Resentments and Indignation of all true Christians, true English-men, they must thank themselves for publish such untrue Accounts as that which goes under the name Captain John Palmers, and that scandalous Pamp called N. E's Faction discovered, supposed to be writ by an Implacable Enemy of all good men, and a person for Impudence and Lying has few Equals in the World. I which follows, being signed by several Gentlemen of gr Integrity, who likewife had a particular knowledge of things by them related, is therefore of unquestionable Cre The Design in making of it thus publick, is to vindic Their Majesties Loyal Subjects in New England, and give a true Representation of things unto those who he by false Relations been imposed on.

B. N. E. Feb. 4. 1692

N Aving Received from Mr. Addington by order of the Council and Representatives of the Massachusetts Colony, 2 fignification of their defire; That whereas we were Members of the Late Council in the time of Sir Edmond Androsses Government, we would give some Information of the Grievances and Male-administrations under the same. Upon consideration had thereof, and in answer thereunto, we cannot but own and declare, that not only our felves, but many others in the same station (not now present to joyn with us) were of a long time much diffatisfied and discouraged with very many of the Proceedings and Administrations in the said Government; and had little reason to wonder that so great a number of the People were so too. It might well have been expected that the Governour (not so succelsful heretofore) notwithstanding the extraordinariness (to fav no more) of many Clauses and Powers in his Commission; yea the rather and the more, because thereof would have cautioned and moderated the Execution of the same: But to our Great Trouble we found it very much otherwise. Many were the things that were accounted Irregular and Grievous therein, far from conducing to the Publick Weal of the Territory, and not a little to the differvice of the Crown, as tending rather to the diffurbing and difaffecting of the Subjects here, than to the furtherance of that chearful Obedience, Loyalty, Love and Duty in them, which ought by all good means, to have been nourified and promoted. And of all this unhappiness, we must reckon the first step and in-let to be, that the Governour did so quickly neglect the great number of the Council, and chiefly adhere unto and Govern by the advice only of a few others, the principal of them Strangers to the Countrey, without Estates or Interest therein to oblige them, persons of known and declared Prejudices against us, and that had plainly laid their chiefest Designs and Hopes to make unreasonable profit of this poor People. Innumerable were the evil Effects that from hence were continually growing up amongst us: The Debates in Council were not so free as ought to have been but too much over-ruled, and a great deal of harshness continually expresfed against Persons and Opinions that did not please. The Greatest Rigour

Rigour and Severity was too often used towards the soberest fort People, when any thing could be found or pretended against their their humble submissions were little regarded, and inexorable Personations ordered against them, whilst in the mean time the notorio vicious ness and profaneness of others met not with the like discount nance, but persons of such a character were put into places of b siness and trust. The long settled maintenance of the Publick M nistry, even from those that applied themselves to no other woof Worship, but continued ordinary hearers, could not be uphe by any act of Authority providing for the same, and Schools Learning so well taken care of formerly, were in most places falle to decay, and many more such like might be reckoned up. B we shall more especially instance farther in the particulars so lowing, as not the least.

1. And first; It was as we thought a great flight put upon the Council, and to the prejudice of the good People of the Territ ry. That whereas at the Governours first coming a Committee appointed thereunto by himfelf, and a full Council had with gre care and leveral weeks trouble revised a very confiderable num ber of Orders and Laws collected out of the feveral Law-Book of these Colonies found by long experience very needful at agreeable to the good of these Plantations, which Laws so Co lected and Revised, were again presented unto, and upon furth advisement approved by the Governour and Council and passe Yet upon the introducing Mr. West from New York to be Depu Secretary, they were, for what causes we know not, totally la afide, and the People denied the benefit of them. And the Grievance was fo much the greater, and a plainer Indication the feverity of some men in their Intended Management things, because on good deliberation there had also passed Order of Council, That until the Council should take furth order, the feveral Justices, Town-Officers, and others shou proceed according to former Ufages, and fuch Local Laws the feveral parts of this Dominion, as are not repugnant to the Laws of England, &c. Yet because by virtue of the said Ord fome in Authority have proceeded to put forth their power f the support of the Ministry, and some others did justifie ther felves in some actions done by them that were not pleasing hereup hereupon when a discourse only, and some debate thereof had passed in Council but without any regular determination made, and contrary to the express words of the said Order, it was Entred in the Council-Book concerning it, resolved that the same was only in Force till the next Session of the Council, and so determined as null of it self, and that none presume to act pursuant to such Laws as are or shall be made here.

- 2. Whereas the Act for the Continuing and Establishing of feveral Rates, Duties and Imposts was one of the first of so great Moment that came out in Form under the Seal of the Territory, and was publickly proclaimed, we that were present have great cause to remember what trouble and distatisfaction there was amongst the Members of the Council concerning the same. As that Act was framed and urged upon us, a very confiderable number (and we believe we were the Major part) diffented from and argued much against it. And the the Governor expressed not a little heat and politiveness alledging his instructions, and held the Council together, unreasonably a very long time about it. Yet when we did at last break up we could not imagine that he could take the Bill to be agreed to 3 Nevertheless it was the next day (to our wonderment) brought in fairly Engroffed in Parchment and quickly Signed by the Governour without any counting of Voices either then or the day before, which was the more needful because fome did continue still to make their objections, others that had fooken against the Bill the day before, declaring their adherence to what they had then faid; and many more under fo great difcouragement and discountenance, as was manifested sitting silent. which we are fure in the regular paffing of Laws can never be reckoned for a confent.
- 3. The Way and Manner used afterwards of proposing and passing all Laws was very uncertain and unequal, not answerable to the Nature of so great a Power, nor to the largeness of the Territory that was to be obliged by them, or to the Number of the Concellors appointed therein; for after a little while there were no set times appointed or given notice of for the making of Laws, that so the Members of the Council might attend in a fuller number to be helpful therein. Bills of the greatest concernment

cernment were usually first consulted and framed in private, and fo unexpectedly brought into Council at any time, and then our work too was often under great disadvantages, not to advise freely and confult about the making of a Law thought necessary but to maintain a fort of Contest in opposition to a very inconvenient one, too far promoted and engaged in already; and above all, there was never any fair way of taking and counting the number of the Councellors confenting and diffenting, that so the Majority might be known in any matter that admitted of any confiderable reasonings and debates, by reason whereof both Laws and other Orders and Resolutions might be set down as passed by the Council, which ought not to have been. And when it hath been (as often it was) expresly and earnestly prayed when matters of greater moment than ordinary were in hand, that the Debate and Resolution of them might be put off till a fuller Council of Members from other feveral parts of the Dominion might be Convened, fuch motions were ever difaccepted, and entertained with no little displacency; so that it might be too truly affirmed, that in effect four or five persons, and those not so favourably inclined and disposed as were to be wished for, bear the Rule over, and gave Law to a Territory the largest and most considerable of any belonging to the Dominion of the Crown,

4. In pursuance of this way and manner of passing Laws above expressed, there were two in special that came forth, which we are fure in fuller and freer Councils would have had a full Stop put to them; viz. First, The Act for Regulating the Choice of felect Men, &c. wherein the Liberty of Towns to meet for the managing of their Publick Affairs referring to their Common Lands, and all other their concernments, which they had enjoyed for so many years, to their great benefit, was most unreasonably restrained to once a year, and all other Convening of Inhabitants as a Town Meeting upon any pretence or colour whatfoever, was strictly forbidden: And the other Act was that intituled, An Act requiring all Mafters of Ships or Veffels to give fecurity, in which there were fuch restraints laid upon all persons from Transporting themselves freely (as their occafions might call) out of the Territory, That it would have been

been a meer Prison to all that should be found therein, and such Bond required of all Ships and Vessels (extending in the practice even to Shallops and Vood-Boats) as would quickly have intolerably discouraged, if not ruined the Trade thereof; and all without any other ordinary general benefit of the said Act, but the filling some mens Pockets with Fees: And (as it might be thought from the time of moving for this Act, which was when Captain Hutchinson was already gone, and Mr. Mather was known to be intending for England) the obstructing of such mens going home as were likely there to make just Complaints, and seek Redress of Publick Grievances; and when this Act had been strenuously opposed in Council here at Boston, where it was more than once vehemently urged, and as often denied, it was carried as far as New York, and there an opportunity found for the obtaining of it.

5. The great matter of Properties and Titles to our Lands is the next to be infifted on, His Majesty that granted the Charter did fully invest the Patentees with Right to the Soil throughout the whole Limits thereof, and here on the place, the Right of the Natives was honeftly purchased from them. The Disposal. Distribution, and Granting of Lands by the Patentees, who were also incorporated, and made a Body Politick, was in such a plain. ready, easie way, without any charge to the Planters, as in the Settlement of fo large a Countrey was thought to be most agreeable: And so much of a publick spirit and design were those Noble Gentlemen, that (though well they might) they fettled not one fingle Penny of fervice or acknowledgment to themfelves and Heirs in any of their Grants, a thing to felf-denying and worthy, that few Instances can be given of the like. which notwithstanding, and the Possessions, Descents and Valuable Purchases of so many years that have passed since, The Governour and those he adhered to, resolved and practised to make all mens Titles in effect quite null and void. The purchasing of the Natives Right, was made nothing of, and next to a Ridicule. The Enjoyment and Improvement of Lands not inclosed, and especially if lying in common amongst many was denied to be possession; it was not enough that some men that thought it convenient, and were both willing and able, did take Confirmations of their Lands, the numbers of whom in time might have have been a confiderable gain to them; but nothing would satisfie unless all in general might be compelled so to do; hence those that refused were declared Intruders upon His Majesty, and put in sear of having their Lands granted unto strangers. Many were Solicited, and Encouraged to Petition for other mens Lands, and had a shameful Example set them by some of the chief Contrivers of all this Mischief. When some menhave Petitioned for a confirmation of their own Lands, a part of these only was offered to be granted to them, and another part denyed. Nor could any mans own Land be confirmed to him, without a particular Survey of every part and parcel of them first made, the great charges whereof, and of other Fees to be taken would have been to most men Insupportable: Tea it hath by some been computed that all the money in the Countrey would not suffice to patent the Lands therein contained.

And yet farther, a considerable quit-rent to the King was to be Imposed upon all Lands, though already a constant yearly Tax for the Support of the Government had been laid on them. And for all this most unreasonable vexation to a Laborious and Industrious people, the only Ground pretended was some defects and wants of form and due manner alledged to be in the way of the disposing and conveying of all Lands from the Patentees to the Townships and People here; which whatever it amounted to might have been easily remedied, either by an application and representation to the King for the obtaining a General settlement of all properties (which would have been highly Worthy and Generous for the Governour to have engaged in, on behalf of the People) or by fome other ways that were proposed. But nothing but the way of particular Patenting as abovefaid could prevail. In profecution whereof all Actions intended upon Informations of Intrusions in His Majesties behalf, or between old Proprietors and new Grantees must have had their Decision at the Ordinary Courts of Common Law here upon the Place where matters of Equity and of a Confideration Transcending all ordinary Cases could not have a proper Cognizance and due Influence in the Decision, Determination and Judgment.

6. Though sufficient Courts of Justice were appointed, and held in the several Counties for the Tryal of all Offenders, yet it

was too frequent upon more particular displeasure to fetch up persons from very remote Counties before the Governour and Council at Boston (who were the highest, and a constant Court of Record and Judicature) not to receive their tryal but only to be examined there, and so remitted to an Inserior Court to be farther proceeded against. The Grievance of which Court was exceeding great, for hereby not only the Charge, was made Excessive upon such persons by the notorious exactions of the Messenger, the Secretaries Fees for Examination, &c. But these Examinations themselves were unreasonably strict, and rigorous and very unduely ensuring to plain unexperienced men. And the Tryals of several, were by this means over-ruled to be at Boston, and not in the proper Counties, and were otherwise so far prejudged as to be rendred less equal.

The Extraordinary Oppressive Fees taken in all matters by indigent and exacting Officers, these were at the first for a long time Arbitrarily imposed and required without any colour of an Establishment of them by the Council. Afterwards a Committee was appointed, to bring in a Table of Fees, that spent a long time without finishing any thing, the reason whereof was because some therein especially the Deputy Secretary West, insisted upon Fees, much more extraordinary than some others could confent to. In conclusion; There was a Table of Fees drawn up to be presented to the Council, and figned by some of the Committee, one of whom (whose Subscription is to this Paper) declaring expresly, that by his Signing he did no otherwise agree, but only that it might be presented to the Council, to do therein as they should see cause, who also when it was so presented to the Council, declared that many of the particulars in that Table contained were unreasonable, and ought to be abated, and of this mind weremany others. But the Entry after the usual manner was an approbation thereof.

Lastly, As to those Great Jealousies and Suspicions of Sinister Designs in the Governour as to our Troubles by the Indians, we have to say, That although divers things too uncertain, if not untrue, have been too easily reported and spread concerning him, a practice which some of us have formerly with no little prejudice to

our selves discountenanced and born Testimony against; yet there have not wanted some other particulars that might give too great a ground for the same. The principal of them (as far as we have any knowledge of things of that kind) are these.

The Governours Seizing and Taking away the Goods of Mounfieur St. Castine of Penopscot, the Summer before the War broke forth, which thing hath been effeemed not a little to have stirred up and furthered the succeeding Troubles. The Governours not hastening his Return to Boston when these Troubles were actually begun, but lengthening out his Tarrience in places to remote till the Hostility of the Indians, and the great Mischiefs thereof were too far advanced. That during his absence, he was not pleased sufficiently to impower and instruct any to act things necessary for the safety of the out Plantations and the Profecution and Suppression of the Enemy, tho' he had speedy and true Accounts from time to time sent him of all that happened. That all that was done to this purpose in a case of fuch necessity, either by the Lieutenant Govenour, or by the Justices of Peace, and Military Officers in many places, by securing and disarming of Neighbouring Indians, setting up Warding and Watching, Garrisoning several houses for the security of the Inhabitants, especially the Women and Children, in case of fudden Inroads and Surprizings that might be, sending some relief of men to some places that were most in danger, and also what was done by those Members of the Council that were at Boston in conjunction with the Commander in chief left in the Fort there, who raised and sent some Forces to Casco-Bay, where greatest harms were done. We say, that all that was thus done, was so extreamly disapproved of by the Governour upon his Return back from Albany and New York, and an unaccountable displeasure manifested against all persons that had so acted, and that he was ready to call them to an account as high Offenders for the same, and refused a long time, tho' much folicited, to give any Order concerning the Souldiers fent to Casco, either for the continuance of them there, where they were very necessary, or for their dimission home. Unto all which may be added the Governours fending Messengers both John Smith the Quaker from Albany, and foon after Major Macgregory to Keybeck upon such Errands and Business as were not communi-B 2

communicated and laid open to the Council. And further, bis Relase and setting at liberty sundry Indians that were in hold, some of them known Enemies to the English, and particularly objected against by several of the Council, and that without any exchange of our English Captives then in the Enemies hands.

These are the chief Matters which upon this occasion (without any undue Prejudice against any man, or design to justifie the desects of our selves in the performance of our own shares of duty, but in answer to the desire signified to us as above) we have to set forth, professing truly that by such a state of things as we had the experience and seeling of; The Places that we held were rendred exceeding uneasse to us, and that our of a sincere respect to the Prosperity of these Their Majesties Plantations, we could not but be very desirous that through the Favour of God and our Superiors, all due Redress might in a good happy season be obtained; and the way of Governing English Subjects in Their Majesties Dominions without an Affembly of the Peoples Representatives banished out of a World for ever.

Boston in New England, Jan. 27. 1690.

William Stoughton, Thomas Hinckley, Wart. Winthrop, Barthol. Gedney, Samuel Shrimpton.

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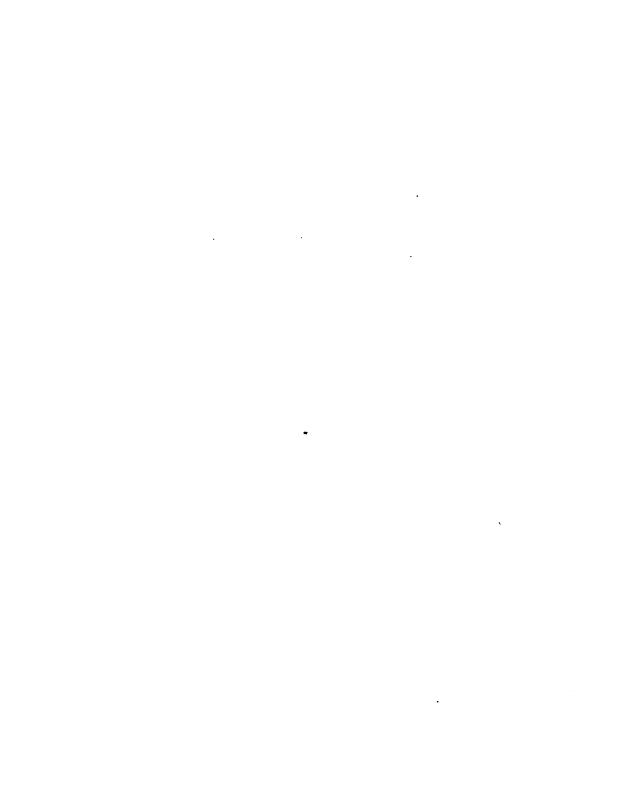




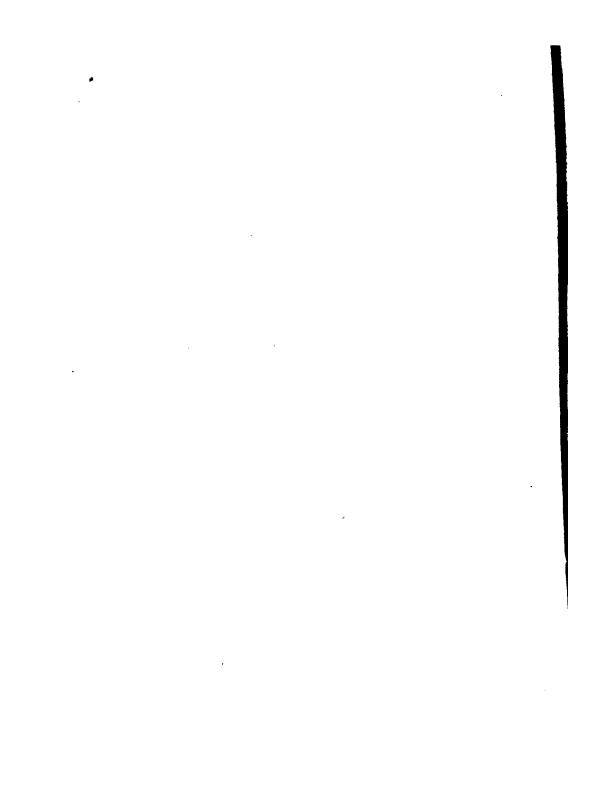
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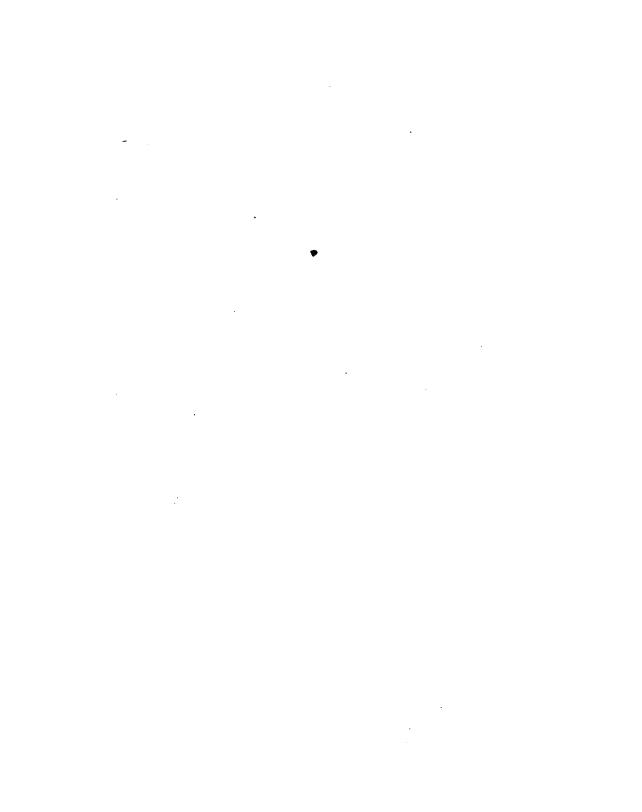








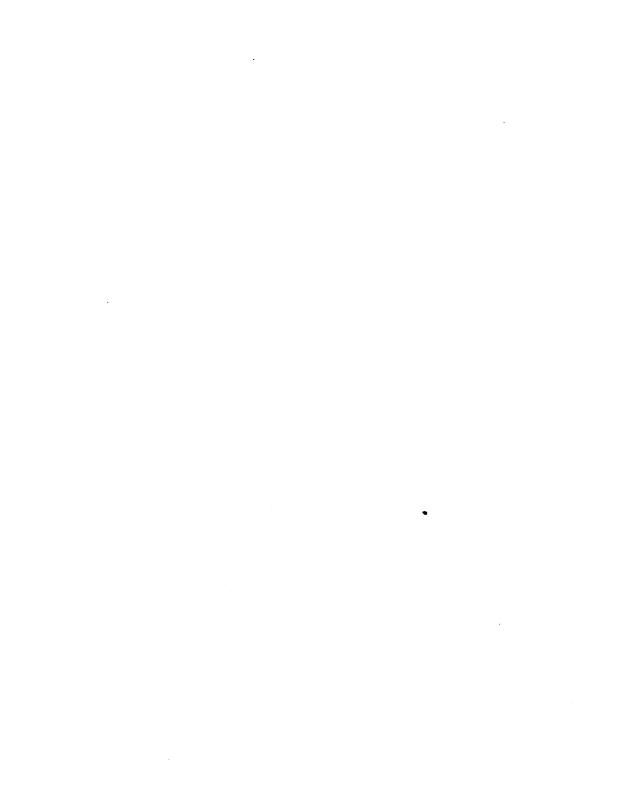




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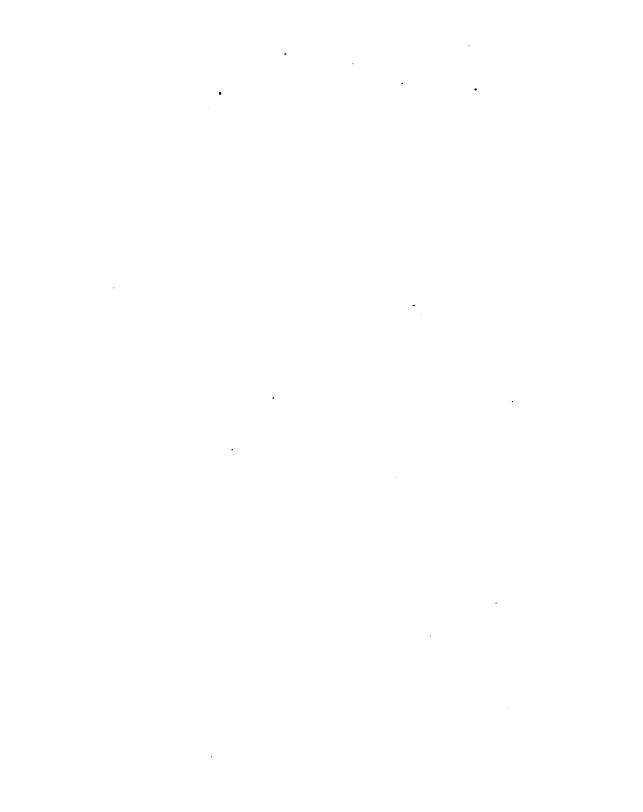


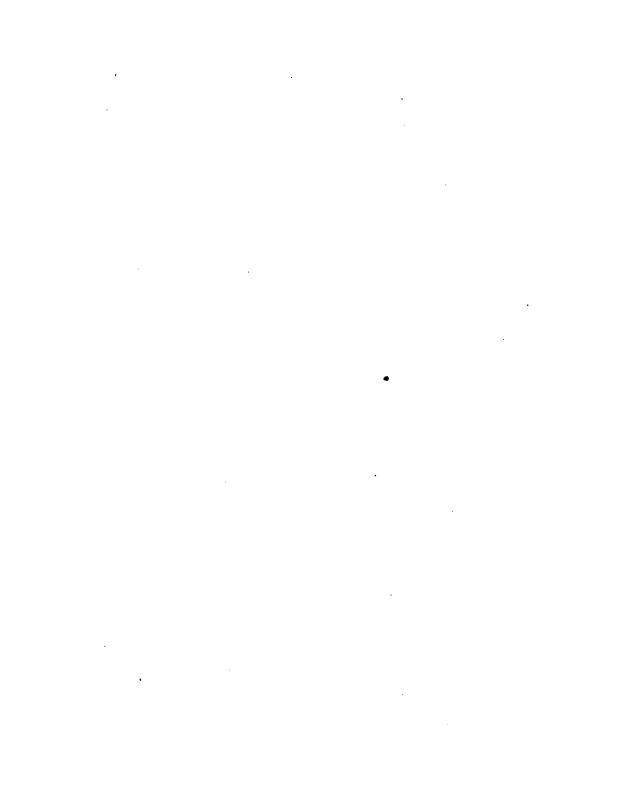






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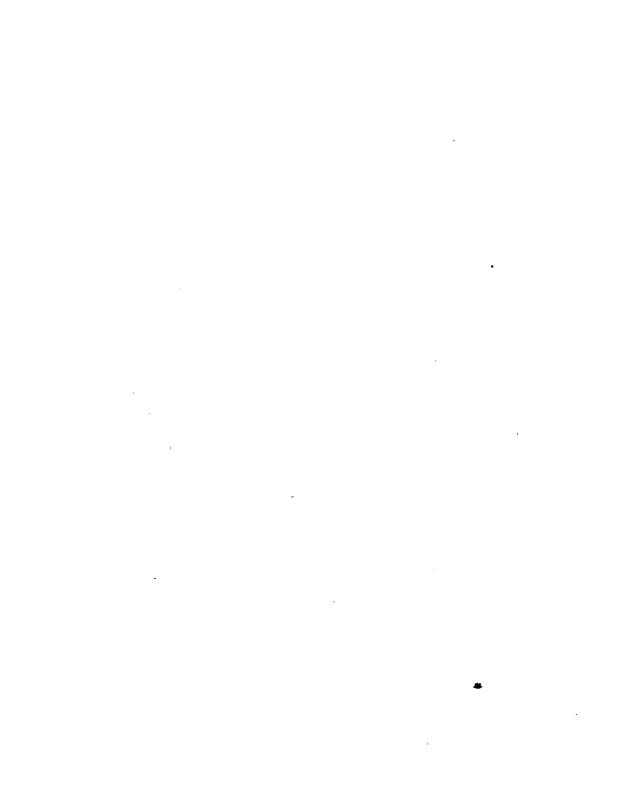






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